Two new species of Centaurea (Compositae, Cardueae) from Turkey

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Abstract

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Two new species of Centaurea collected by R. Ulrich in southern Anatolia are described, mapped and illustrated. C. ulrichiorum is apparently very isolated and cannot be assigned to any of the known sections; molecular data place it in a clade comprising, e.g., the sections Jacea and Acrolophus. C. werneri is a member of C. sect. Acrolophus with affinities to species of the Balkans.

Key words: angiosperms, Asteraceae, Anatolia, ITS, ETS, systematics, endemism.

Introduction

Centaurea L. is one of the largest genera in the flora of Turkey. This holds true even if the new, revised system is accepted that excludes Rhaponticoides Vaill., Psephellus Cass. and Cyanus Mill. (Wagenitz & Hellwig 2000, Greuter 2003). Since the last revision for the Flora of Turkey (Wagenitz 1975a) the following new species of Centaurea s.l. have been added (literature citations are given for the newly described species):

Centaurea amplifolia Boiss. & Heldr. ≡ Rhaponticoides amplifolia (Boiss. & Heldr.) M. V. Agab. & Greuter
C. (sect. Acrolophus (Cass.) DC.) cariensiformis Hub.-Mor. in Bauhinia 7: 179. 1982
C. hadimensis Wagenitz & al. in Willdenowia 28: 157. 1998 ≡ Psephellus (sect. Psephelloidei (Boiss.) Wagenitz & Hellwig) hadimensis (Wagenitz & al.) Wagenitz
C. iconiensis Hub.-Mor. in Bauhinia 7: 77. 1981 ≡ Rhaponticoides iconiensis (Hub.-Mor.) M. V. Agab. & Greuter
C. mykalea Hub.-Mor. in Bauhinia 6: 370. 1979 ≡ Rhaponticoides mykalea (Hub.-Mor.) M. V. Agab. & Greuter
C. (sect. Acrolophus (Cass.) DC.) nydeggeri Hub.-Mor. in Bauhinia 6: 285. 1978
C. (sect. Acrocentron (Cass.) DC.) rechingeri Phitos

C. yildizii Civelek & al. in Bot. J. Linn. Soc. 143: 207-212. 2003 ≡ Psephellus (sect. Psephelloidei (Boiss.) Wagenitz & Hellwig) yildizii (Civelek & al.) Greuter


Several species only known from the type collection before 1975 have been recollected in the meantime, the most spectacular findings being Centaurea foliosa Boiss. & Kotschy (Wagenitz & Hellwig 1997), C. taochia Sosn. (Nydegger-Hügli 2000) and C. leptophylla (K. Koch) Tchich. (Nydegger-Hügli 2002).

At the beginning, the flora of Turkey was mainly explored by botanists from Central and Western Europe. This period ended with the monumental “Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands”, edited, directed and for a substantial part authored by the British botanist Peter Davis (Davis 1965-85, Davis & al. 1988). This gave a strong impetus to Turkish botanists from different, often newly founded universities as can be seen in many papers of recent times (see, e.g., Güner & al. 2000). However, there are still collectors from Central Europe detecting new species, including, e.g., the Swiss collector Max Nydegger-Hügli and the German pharmacist Robert Ulrich, both with a keen eye for rare and new species. To Ulrich, who was especially active in S Anatolia (for his discoveries see Kilian & Parolly 2002, Parolly & Kilian 2003, Parolly & Nordt 2002, 2004, 2005, Parolly & Scholz 2004, Parolly & al. 2005), we also owe the material of two remarkable new Centaurea species together with valuable indications on their sites, phenology and conservation status.

Molecular phylogenetic analysis

For nrDNA sequence analyses, DNA was extracted from dry material, and the internal transcribed spacers (ITS-1 and ITS-2) and the 3’ portion of the external transcribed spacer (ETS) were amplified and sequenced as described in detail by Martins & Hellwig (2005). The PCR of ITS-1 failed for Centaurea stenolepis, C. deusta and C. alba subsp. latronum. A list of the species included in the molecular phylogenetic analysis with their voucher data and GenBank accession numbers is given in the appendix. The alignment of the sequences was performed manually. It is available on request from L. Martins. The data set (1043 characters, 213 thereof parsimony-informative) was analysed with both Maximum Parsimony (MP) and Bayesian Inference of Phylogeny (BI). The MP analysis was performed using PAUP* 4.0b10 (Swofford 2000) by a heuristic search with 10 random addition sequence replicates, TBR branch swapping and the MulTrees option in function. Gaps were treated as missing data. Branch support was evaluated by means of a bootstrap analysis with 1000 replicates and by a decay analysis using AutoDecay (Eriksson & Wikström 1995). For the Bayesian analysis, the GTR+I+G model of nucleotide substitution was selected by the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) as implemented in Modeltest version 3.5 (Posada & Crandall 1998). Bayesian analysis was done with MrBayes version 3.0B4 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist 2001) with the following settings: number of substitution types = 6, rates = invgamma (i.e., GTR+I+G model), 4 Monte Carlo Markov chains (MCMC) for 2 000 000 generations, trees sampled every 100th generation, and 500 trees discarded as burn-in.

Results

Centaurea ulrichiorum Wagenitz, Hellwig & Parolly, sp. nov.

Holotype: Turkey, C4 Antalya, NE Demirtaş (Richtung Pass), 950 m, steiler Erdhang, Exp. W, 7.9.2001, R. Ulrich 1/25 (GOET) – Fig. 1-2.

Planta elata, perennis, 50-80 cm alta, a basi valde ramosa ramis suberectis iterum ramosis, 4-6 capitula gerentibus. Caulis et folia glandulis sessilibus et pilis brevibus dense obsita, asperula, pilis longis interdum immixta. Folia inferiora lyrata, petiolata, segmentibus utrinque 1-4, media subovalia, apice acuta et mucrone minimo cartilagineo plusminusve distincto terminata, basi 1-2
Fig. 1. *Centaurea ulrichiorum* – holotype specimen (GOET).
lobis minutis provisa, sessilia; c. 2 × 4 cm, superiora sensim minora, indivisa. 

Capitula in parte basali ramorum saepe fere sessilia, caetera ad apice ramorum 2-10 cm longorum. 

Involucrum ovoideum, (10-)11-13(-14) × 8-10 mm; appendices phyllorum partem basalem earum pro parte obtegentes, non decurrentes, stramineae vel dilute brunnæae, anguste triangulares, utrinque ciliis 5-6, 1.5-2 mm longis tenuibus provisæ, interdum basi auriculatae, spinulo 1-1.5 mm longo vix valdiore terminatae. 

Flores purpurei, marginales non radiantes; tubus antherarum florum hermaphroditum apice leviter curvatus. 

Achaenia 3.2-4 mm longa, grisea, cicatrice parva. 

Pappus 2.5-3.5 mm longus, setae scabrae ab externis ad series penultima elongatae, pappus internus c. 0.5 mm longus.

Erect perennial with a somewhat bushy, wiry appearance, 50-80 cm tall, arising from a weakly branched root-stock; remains of stems and leaf bases of the previous year present. 

Branches up to 20, all ± equalling in length, rigid, virgately and repeatedly branched, angled, leafy throughout, up to 4 mm in diam. at base. Stems and leaves with a dense, somewhat heteromorphic indumentum consisting of yellowish, sessile glands and long, white, evanescent hairs scattered among a dense cover (especially on leaves) of stiff, weakly hooked hairs, 0.1-0.2 mm long. 

Basal leaves including petiole 4-15 × 1-2.5 cm, lyrate with 1-4 unequally large segments, terminal segments largest, about 1/5-1/3 of the total leaf length, often shallowly and irregularly dentate, the 4-6 teeth ending in cartilaginous mucros, apex acute, petiole up to 8 cm long. 

Median stem leaves sessile, ovate to obovate in outline, c. 3-5 × 1-1.5(-2) cm, with 1-3 small lobes, margin of terminal lobe indistinctly dentate or entire, apex acute or obtuse, often with a cartilaginous mucro; upper stem leaves increasingly smaller, entire. 

Capitula up to 10 per branch, those at base of the branches partly subsessile, the upper on 2-12 cm long peduncles and solitary, or occasionally clustered and then one capitulum subsessile. 

Involucrum ovoid, (10-)11-13(-14) × 8-10 mm.
Phyllaries firm, straw-coloured, glabrous, especially the inner ones in the upper part with indistinct elevated nerves; appendages moderately imbricate, not decurrent, in flower pale brown with a green centre, in fruit straw-coloured, narrowly triangular, occasionally auriculate at base, with 5-6(-7) distinctly verruculose 1.5-2 mm long cilia on either side and a weak, 1-1.5 mm long terminal spinule. Receptacular bristles 6-8 mm long. Flowers uniformly dark purplish violet, marginal ones not radiant; corolla tube c. 10 mm long; anther tube of hermaphroditic flowers faintly curved. Achenes elliptic, laterally compressed, 3.2-4 mm long, grey and yellowish striate, shining, with a very loose sericeous indumentum, hilum small. Pappus persistent, double, multisierate, innermost bristles of outer pappus up to 2.5-3.5 mm, scabrous, inner pappus c. 0.5 mm long.


Eponymy. – The plant is named in honour of its discoverers, the German pharmacist Robert Ulrich, plant enthusiast with a tremendous knowledge of the flora of S Anatolia, and his wife Gertrud.

Systematic position and phylogeny. – When the authors saw this specimen, it was their immediate impression that it represents a new species. On closer inspection it became clear that the species does not fit into any of the known sections of Centaurea. The well differentiated (not decurrent) appendages are known from C. sect. Jacea (Mill.) DC., sect. Cynaroides Boiss. ex Walp. and several yellow-flowered sections in Turkey such as C. sect. Cheirolepis, sect. Pseudoseridia Wagenitz, sect. Pteracantha Wagenitz, but none of these has a combination of characters corresponding to the new species. Besides the habit and the nearly oval median stem leaves with small lobes at the base, the indumentum of the new species is particularly noteworthy. Stem and leaves have a dense indumentum of very short stiff hairs, which make them slightly rough on touch, and additional long hairs, which are very unevenly distributed.

Analysis of the molecular data set (Fig. 4) comprising DNA sequences from the nuclear genome (ITS and ETS) of the nuclear ribosomal repeat shows that on the basis of 213 parsimony-informative characters Centaurea ulrichiorum is nested in a monophyletic group (99 % bootstrap support, posterior probability = 1 and Bremer support value = 12) that also encompasses C. benedicta (L.) L. (= Cnicus benedictus L.), C. stenolepis A. Kern. and C. inexpectata

Fig. 3. Map of Turkey with the distribution of Centaurea werneri (■) and C. ulrichiorum (●).
Wagenitz from C. sect. Jacea and all representatives of C. sect. Acrolophus s.l. (including sect. Willkommia Blanca and sect. Phalolepis). Garcia-Jacas & al. (2000) found the same close relationship between C. sect. Phalolepis and sect. Jacea, and the former genus Cnicus L. Due to limited species sampling, the sister group of Centaurea ulrichiorum cannot be defined. However, the strong statistical support for the monophylum that besides of C. ulrichiorum contains only members of C. sect. Acrolophus s.l. leaves little doubt about the sectional affinity of the newly described species. The basal position of C. ulrichiorum within this section may support the idea that it retained some plesiomorphic features of its common ancestor with either C. benedicta or C. sect. Jacea. The slightly curved anther tube reminds of the pronouncedly curved tube in C. benedicta. Knowledge of the chromosome number of C. ulrichiorum would provide further evidence of its sectional affiliation.

Site ecology and phenology. – Centaurea ulrichiorum grows on an earthy, partly unstable, fairly barren and strongly eroded slope merging into a bank below a Pinus brutia Ten. forest at 950 m. The few associated species include some scattered individuals of Sideritis argyrea P. H. Davis (an endemic of the Isaurian Taurus), Peucedanum isauricum Parolly & Nordt, another local endemic recently discovered by R. Ulrich and described from here (Parolly & Nordt 2004), and Silene rigidula Sm. in the drier mid-slope as well as more frequently Chrysophthalmum dichotomum Boiss. & Heldr. at the lower and damper margin. C. ulrichiorum flowers from early July till mid October, with an assumed peak of flowering in August. Ripe fruits date from November and may not be obtained earlier than at the end of September.

Distribution and recommended IUCN threat category. – Centaurea ulrichiorum is hitherto only recorded from its type locality near Demirtaş in the western Central Taurus (Fig. 3). The local
population consists of two major stocks, each with more than 20 flowering shoots, and some 40 younger, smaller individuals, most of them at vegetative stage. A careful search by the Ulrichs over three years failed to detect more plants or additional localities. Fruit-set was copious, but the achenes were heavily infested by insects. R. Ulrich noted in November 2003 that the softer parts of more than 90% of all fruits were eaten up. Moreover, the only known locality of the new species is situated along a road and is therefore directly threatened by any road widening. The known data support the view that *C. ulrichiorum* is among the rarest plant species of Turkey and facing an uncertain future. Its classification as “Critically Endangered” (CR) according to criterion C of the IUCN Red List Categories (IUCN 2001) is thus inevitable.

**Centaurea** (sect. *Acrolophus*) *wernerii* Wagenitz, Hellwig & Parolly, sp. nov.

Holotype: Turkey, C3 Antalya, Finike - Korkuteli, N Finike, 440 m, senkrechte Kalkfelsen, SE-Exposition, 29.4.2004, R. Ulrich 4/1 (GOET; isotypes: B, GOET) – Fig. 5-7.

Species affinis *C. wettsteinii* Degen & Dörfl. a qua differt foliis basalibus distincte lyratis et ciliis appendicorum utrinque 6-7.

Planta perennis. *Rhizoma* (caudex) crassum, tomentosum, cicatricibus foliorum et caulium obtectum, rosula foliorum terminatum, caulibus extrarosularibus. *Caulis* et folia plusminusve dense albo- vel grisetoementosata. *Folia rosulae* petiolata, lyrata, segmento terminali fere orbiculare vel late triangulari, 15-28 mm lato, indistincte denticulato, segmentibus lateralibus utrinque 4-5, basi versus minoribus, saepe basi lobulo parvo proviso. *Folia caulina* ovata ad obovata, in petiolum latum angustata vel sessilia, inferiorem interdum basi dentata vel lobata. *Caules* e basi foliorum rosularium ascendentes, arcuati, 10-15(-33) cm longi, 1-2(-3) capitula gerentes. Involucrum cupuliforme vel fere infundibuliforme, 15-16 mm longum, c. 8-10 mm latum. Phylla nervis elevatis longitudinaliter striata; appendices anguste triangulares, brunnneae, unguis phyllorum pro parte obtegentes, utrinque ciliis albidis 6-7 3-3.5 mm longis ornatae, apice gracili appendices nervatione elevata; nervis elevatis longitudinalia rectae; appendices anguste triangulares, brunnneae, unguis phyllorum pro parte obtegentes, utrinque ciliis albidis 6-7 3-3.5 mm longis ornatae, apice gracili appendices elevati.
Fig. 5. *Centaurea werneri* – holotype specimen (GOET).
molecular findings (Fig. 4). No satisfactory subdivision of this section exists and its limits are not clear either. Hayek (1901) named several taxa in sect. Acrolophus without rank and with short descriptions. Dostál (1976) elevated these to sections. They are, however, ill-defined. It is apparent that C. werneri is isolated among the Turkish species of C. sect. Acrolophus. The closest species is C. wettsteinii Degen & Dörfl. from FYR Makedonija. Both are chasmophytic perennials with undetermined growth, the flowering stems arising from the base of the rosette. Thus, an elongated monopodial rhizome is formed. Large lyrate rosette leaves are present at flowering time, whereas the leaves of the flowering stems are much smaller. The flowering stems are ascending with a few large capitula (compared to other members of the section); the involucre is 15-17 mm long, open at fruiting time; the pappus is longer than the achene. C. wettsteinii differs by the structure of the leaves: the basal ones are pinnatipartite (the terminal segment scarcely larger than the lateral) and the stem leaves are more divided. Furthermore, C. wettsteinii differs in having a larger number of lateral cilia on the appendages (up to 10). Taxonomic affinities between the flora of the Balkans and Turkey are relatively rare in the genus Centaurea (see Wagenitz 1975b).

Boissier (1875) was the first to observe the growth form in Centaurea as described above. In C. sect. Cyanus (now genus Cyanus) he distinguished “caules floriferi infrarosulares” and “caules floriferi e rosulae centro” in the conspectus of the genus. Stefanoff & Georgieff (1931) in their revision of C. sect. Cyanus (Mill.) Dumort. described a subsect. Infrarosulares Stef. & T. Georgiev on account of this character. The same difference can be observed in the sections Acrolophus and Phalolepis. Typical examples of the type with infrarosular stems from C. sect. Acrolophus are C. yozgatensis Wagenitz, C. austro-anatolica Hub.-Mor., C. dichroa Boiss. & Heldr., from C. sect. Phalolepis C. ptarmicoides Halácsy (= C. ptarmicifolia Hayek), C. cadmea Boiss., probably also C. pawlowskii Phitos & Damboldt and the recently described C. leonidia
Kalpoutzakis & Constantinidis. It must be admitted, however, that it is not always easy to distinguish between the two possibilities, especially if only herbarium material is available.

Further species allied to *Centaurea werneri* are *C. niederi* Heldr. and *C. heldreichii* Halácsy. At least in *C. niederi* the flowering stem arises from the centre of the rosette (see the excellent figure in Tan & Iatrou 2001: t. 95a). These species have already been discussed by Wagenitz (1989) hinting at their affinity although formally *C. niederi* belongs in section *Acrolophus* and *C. heldreichii* (like *C. leonidia*) in sect. *Phalolepis*. All these plants grow typically in limestone rock crevices and have a very restricted distribution area.

**Site ecology and phenology.** – *Centaurea werneri* is a typical chasmophyte of sunny, steep, nearly vertical or even projecting limestone cliffs at altitudes between 400 and 460 m. The exposure varies between SE, SW and W. There are very few associated species: *Amygdalus graecus* Lindl., *Dianthus* sp., *Eryngium glomeratum* Lam., *Euphorbia hierosolymitana* Boiss., *Hypericum hubermorathii* N. K. B. Robson and *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce* (L.) Less. *C. werneri* flowers in April and May, on 11 June 2004 all plants were fruiting.

**Distribution and recommended IUCN threat category.** – *Centaurea werneri* is so far only known from one locality near Finike (Fig. 3), where Ulrich noted c. 350 plants. It is not immediately threatened at this place due to the special habitat, but nevertheless belongs to the very rare species of Turkey. On account of the very restricted area and small population, it must be considered as “Vulnerable” according to criterion D (D1+2) of the IUCN Red List Categories (IUCN 2001).

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Fig. 7. *Centaurea werneri* in fruiting stage on the rocks near Finike. – Photograph by G. Ulrich, 11.6.2004.
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Appendix – List of the species included in the molecular study with their voucher data and GenBank accession numbers.

Accession numbers for new sequences not included in earlier studies are given in bold face.


*Centauera alba* subsp. *latronum* (Pau) Dostál – Spain, *Vicioso 881* (JE), AM087172, AM087173

*Centauera aspera* subsp. *inermis* DC., cult. in the Botanical Garden Göttingen, voucher at JE, AM087189, AM087190, AM087191

*Centauera babylonica* L. – Turkey, vil. İçel (Mersin), Gözne, 12.8.1994, *Hellwig & Kaya 60* (JE), AM087617, AM087618, AM087619

*Centauera benedicta* (L.) (= *Cnicus benedictus* L.) – cult. in the Botanical Garden Göttingen, voucher at JE, AM087159, AM087160, AM087161

*Centauera bruguiérense* subsp. *belangeriana* (DC.) Bornm. – Iran, Fars, Borazjan, Amikhah, 26.4.1973, Riazi 9326 (GOET), AM087192, AM087193, AM087194


*Centauera eriophora* L. – Morocco, prov. Fès, 2 km SE Moulay-Yakoub (W of Fès), 30.4.1987, Lippert 22982 (M), AM087156, AM087157, AM087158

*Centauera inexpectata* Wagenitz – Turkey, vil. Zonguldak, 4.8.1962, *Davis & Coode 38440* (GOET), AM087177, AM087178, AM087179


*Centauera macrocephala* Willdl. – cult. in the Botanical Garden Göttingen, voucher at JE, AM087162, AM087163, AM087164

*Centauera pavlovskii* Phitos & Damboldt – Greece, Pindus Mts, 18.7.1978, *Krendl* (GOET), AM087174, AM087175, AM087176

*Centauera pullata* L. – cult. in the Botanical Garden Göttingen, voucher at JE, AM087183, AM087184, AM087185


*Centauera solstitialis* subsp. *carneola* (Boiss.) Wagenitz – Turkey, vil. İçel (Mersin), 5 km N of Erdemli on road to Güzelošuk, 26.7.1987, *Schroeder 12* (GOET), AM087186, AM087187, AM087188


*Centauera ulrichiorum* Wagenitz & al. – holotype (GOET), AM087195, AM087196, AM087197


*Centauera werneri* Wagenitz & al. – holotype (GOET), AM087180, AM087181, AM087182

